

KIDNEY SCREENING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, in January, a beautiful young staffer in my office by the name of Monique Bradley Brown died from a deadly form of kidney disease. Monique was my legislative correspondent.

Some of the symptoms from the disease appear as normal health anomalies, such as higher blood pressure and lower back pain. Often patients like Monique and their families are taken by surprise when discovery of the ailment is made. Regular screenings are necessary to detect the disease before it is too late.

In Monique's memory, we are having a kidney screening for all House Members and staff. The screening is free. It will take place on Tuesday, May 27, from 9 to 5, in H C-5. The National Kidney Foundation of the Capitol area will conduct the screening, and the various tests will take no longer than a half hour.

For more information, Members and staff may contact my office. Act now before it is too late.

□ 1015

MISUSE OF FEDERAL AGENCIES

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as I was saying at a press conference last week, not since Watergate and Richard Nixon 30 years ago have government agencies been used for domestic political purposes. And now, as in Watergate, we have the smoking gun.

Today's issue of the Fort Worth Star telegram, my hometown newspaper, reports that the Department of Public Service in Texas sent an e-mail to all its officers in the middle of last week ordering that all records of the contact with the State legislators and government agencies be destroyed.

I will read you what appeared in today's Star Telegram addressed to captains. The order said, "Any notes, correspondence, photos that were obtained pursuant to the absconded House of Representatives members shall be destroyed immediately. No copies are to be kept."

Now, we have asked for records on the Federal level. Since they have already been destroyed on the State level, we demand that those records on the Federal level be released now before they can be destroyed.

Remember Rosemary Woods and the 18 minute gap. Release the record today here in Washington so that we will not have what happened in Texas the last week.

RELEASE THE FCC ORDER

(Mr. LATHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that today marks the third anniversary of the FCC's now-infamous press release announcing its decision on the local competition issue. In spite of the FCC's announcement, we still have not seen the text of the FCC's decision. This is a thorny issue, Mr. Speaker, one involving heartfelt disagreement. The only thing that both the incumbent local exchange carriers and competitive local exchange carriers agree on is the need for regulatory certainty.

This uncertainty is precisely the wrong prescription for the ailing telecom sector of our economy. The telecommunications sector has been extremely hard-hit over the course of the last few years, laying off thousands of employees and shrinking construction budgets. The FCC's decision has the promise for bringing some regulatory certainty to the sector upon which it can base investment and hiring decisions.

Instead of promptly releasing the text of the order, thereby hastening new investment and additional hiring, the FCC has delayed for 90 days. This delay has the effect of preventing any economic benefits that could result from the Commission's decision. Having worked so hard to pass jobs and growth packages that will get our economy back on track, this delay is simply unacceptable.

I hope the FCC will not delay the release of its order any longer. We need those jobs and investments in the telecom sector, and we need them soon.

AUSTIN COVER-UP

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, all is not well in the Republic.

Yesterday the Department of Homeland Security raised the terrorist alert level to orange. The threat of another terrorist attack on the United States has grown. That is why so many of us are wondering why the Department of Homeland Security took a time-out from the war on terror to help the Texas Department of Public Safety track down the private plane of State Representative Pete Laney.

Today we discover the shocking news that the Texas Department of Public Safety has destroyed all the documents, all records, all photos relating to the hot pursuit of Texas Democrats.

Mr. Speaker, we need answers to the basic questions. Who ordered the use of Federal law enforcement resources to hunt down the lawmakers in Texas? Was it politically motivated? Have we returned to the Nixon area of Federal executive power for political ends?

And now we must know why the Department of Public Safety destroyed all records. It might help in answering a lot of these questions.

Today I rise to ask the district attorney of Austin to look and investigate why the Department of Public Safety decided to move and destroy these records. It is criminal, and we need to investigate.

HONORING MIKE JENDRZEJCZYK

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the great fighters for human rights and democracy in Asia, Mike Jendrzeczyk.

For 13 years as advocacy director, Mike, at the Asia Division of Human Rights Watch, fought for human rights in all corners of Asia, from China to Burma to Vietnam to Indonesia. His knowledge, insight, and information on these regions was invaluable to policymakers around the world and here in Washington.

Mike testified before the House Committee on International Relations and the Congressional Human Rights Caucus countless times, providing us with critical information on issues ranging from North Korean refugees to human rights abuses in Tibet to democracy in Hong Kong.

Mike's energy and enthusiasm were unwavering, and his ceaseless dedication was admired by all. Unfortunately, the human rights community lost this fighter too soon, and we need to continue his fight.

Mike, I will miss you. Mike, millions in Asia are now living in freedom from Taiwan to South Korea to the Philippines who owe you; and millions more depend on us to continue your work.

IS THERE A CONSPIRACY BETWEEN THE STATE OF TEXAS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY?

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Texans woke up to stories like this one in today's Houston Chronicle that reports on something that is just "unbelievable." On Wednesday, May 14, one day before the Texas legislative Democrats started returning to Austin, the Texas Department of Public Safety, DPS, ordered all records and photos gathered in the search for them to be destroyed.

The order addressed to "Captains" states, "Any notes, correspondence, photos, etc., that were obtained pursuant to the absconded House of Representatives members should be destroyed. No copies kept."

Who originated this order, this destruction?

Yesterday, Secretary Ridge again refused to release a full transcript and tape of the discussions between our